important issue. Much difficulty is being experienced by the marine fishermen due to the decision of the Central Government to discontinue the centrally sponsored Savings-Cum-Relief Scheme. As per the scheme, the fishermen are enrolled. Each beneficiary fisherman has to remit Rs. 45 as monthly subscription for eight months beginning from July to February. Thus, altogether an amount of Rs. 360 as beneficiary contribution is collected under this scheme. As equal amount is contributed by the Central Government. The total amount of Rs. 1080 is disbursed to the beneficiary fisherman in four installments during the months of March to June. This scheme is widely appreciated and it is really a support to the fishermen to a certain extent to overcome their most difficult times.

Sir, unfortunately, the Central Government has decided to stop the implementation of the Savings-Cum-Relief Scheme putting the condition of the fishermen from bad to worse. I would, therefore, request the Government to take immediate action to continue the Savings-Cum-Relief Scheme in the coming years with enhanced central contribution.

MR. SPEAKER : Please be brief. I have got 60 names here. So it means, one should take not more than half a minute. Please remember that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (Quilon) : Sir, on the same issue, I have given a Short Notice Question to you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We are on Zero Hour and not on Short Notice business. You are associating yourself with us.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : My point is that I have raised this matter under Short Notice Question and an answer has been obtained that the matter will be re-considered by the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not Short Notice. This is Zero Hour. I know you are concerned about the same matter. You have expressed that.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : I have also to raise this matter. This is not a fair practice.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Sir, I would like to raise an important issue before the House for the kind attention of the Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You do not have to raise your hands. All the names are there.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, today, almost all the mills of Hindustan Paper Corporation have been closed down because of the new newsprint policy of the Government. Sir, HNL is one of the best institutions, public undertakings which has got the productivity awards for the last three years, but it has been closed down. This Undertaking is in my constituency, i.e. Kottayam in Kerala.

12.07 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker *in the Chair*)

There is another paper mill at Mandia and it has been closed down. The paper mill at Nepa in Madhya Pradesh has been closed down. The mill at Naugunge has been closed down. One of the best mills in India, the Tamil Nadu Newsprint, a Public Undertaking, has been closed down. This is a very serious issue. Today, the newsprint production in our country has come to a halt and the Government is not taking any measures to rectify this. Earlier, there was a policy that if a subscriber had to take two tonnes of indigenous newsprint, then he would be permitted to import one tonne of newsprint from outside. The newsprint policy has been liberalised. It is put under the OGL. Anybody can import foreign newsprint from any other countries. With the result, the indigenous or Public Undertakings are completely closed down.

Sir, thousands of workers are in a helpless condition and the Government is not at all taking care of them. We have met the Minister of Finance and we have met the Minister of Industry. They are not taking any action on this matter.

We have invested public money worth crores and crores of rupees in public undertakings but the condition of the workers is very bad. These companies are being run unprofitably. I can cite an example. The Hindustan Newsprint Limited which is in my constituency, Kottayam, was running on a profit but now that mill has been closed down. This is a very serious issue. The Government, specially the Finance Minister, should look into this. Otherwise, all the units of the HNL will be completely closed down. I request the hon. Finance Minister and the Industries Minister to look into this issue and take necessary steps in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. I have already called Shri Rupchand Pal.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, the continuing agitation...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, this is a very important matter. The Finance Minister is here. Let him answer.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, this is a very serious issue. Thousands of workers are in misery.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have already had your say. Now please sit down. I have called Shri Rupchand Pal.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. I am sorry, I cannot allow anybody else. Let Shri Rupchand Pal speak.